

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO
THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1960





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To:-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the conditions and activities in the Port made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the requirements of Port Health Medical Officers.

During the year I have for the purpose of inspection, pratique and medical emergencies paid 137 visits to vessels, 45 of these being for sickness and accident cases, in Falmouth Bay.

There was one case of notifiable sickness, of Paratyphoid B. Type.

In spite of reports of an increase in the past few years of venereal disease in this country, I have found in the Port Medical work almost negligible evidence.

The number of deratting certificates and exemptions totalled 78. 75 being deratting exemption certificates.

The vessels lying up in the Falmouth River are periodically inspected, no complaints having been reported or found.

The following details are in tabulated form and represent the work carried out on behalf of this Authority.

I am very pleased to have the continued assistance of your Port Health Inspector who carries out his duties efficiently and keeps me in touch with the sanitary conditions of the vessels entering the Port.



I have considerable assistance by the up-to-date communications system installed by one of the Shipping Agents. Being able to report immediately to Foreign owners any suspicion of infection or contacts on board their vessels.

There is a happy atmosphere in the Port, with all-round co-operation and mutual assistance of all concerned.

The Officers of H.M.Customs are extremely helpful and I would like to thank this department for their co-operation.

I am,

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. CECIL DICK

1. STAFF
TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. HALL	Clerk	21 February, 1952	-	-
J.W.MORTON	Treasurer	28 December, 1951	-	Manager, Lloyds Bank, Falmouth.
A.C.DICK	Port Medical Officer of Health	2 February, 1945	M.R.C.S.Eng. L.R.C.P. Lond.	
H.R.T.DEVLIN	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1 April, 1955	M.B., B.Ch.(Dublin)	
F.JACKETT	Port Health Inspector	1 October, 1940	Cert.R.San.I.	-

Address and telephone number of) 17 Boscawen Road, Falmouth.
the Medical Officer of Health) Tel. Falmouth 226.

II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	310	941,009	78	286	1
Coastwise	743	1,514,162	14	674	-
Total	1,053	2,455,171	92	960	1

III CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic ...	(Number of passengers INWARDS	385
	(Number of passengers OUTWARDS	Nil.
Cargo Traffic ..	(Principal IMPORTS	Timber, oil and
	(petroleum spirit.
	(Principal EXPORTS	None.

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive

Amsterdam, Bahrein, Bremen, Calais, Cherbourg, Emden,
Frederiksund, Hamburg, Houston, Halifax, Kotka, Kuwait,
Le Havre, Malmo, Norfolk, Oslo, Port Said, Rouen,
Rotterdam, St.Malo, Stockholm, Sandefjord, Ymuiden,
Zebrugge.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no barge traffic in the Port.

V. WATER SUPPLY

Source of supply

- (a) The district - The drinking water of the district is obtained from the Falmouth Corporation's reservoirs in the Parishes of Budock and Mabe.
- (b) Shipping - As for the district. Water from the district supply is available alongside and is delivered to shipping afloat.

Reports of tests for contamination

Samples are taken regularly by the Falmouth Corporation and tested by the Public Analyst.

Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and Hosepipes

The Authority have no jurisdiction over shore premises or equipment.

Vessels are supplied with fresh water from the Falmouth Corporation's Water-boat and from hydrants on the quayside.

Hydrants and hosepipes are thoroughly flushed out before water is discharged into the water-boat or into ships' water storage tanks.

Number and Sanitary Condition of Water-boats, and powers of Control by the Authority

There is one water-boat operating in the Port. This is owned by the Falmouth Corporation, is of modern construction and is in excellent sanitary condition. The vessel is periodically inspected. Control of the water-boat in so far as any statutory nuisance might exist thereon would be dealt with under Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936, which has been applied to the Joint Board.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

List of Infected Areas

The list of infected areas is prepared from information supplied by the World Health Organisation in the Weekly Record of Quarantinable Diseases.

The lists are typed and copies supplied by hand to H.M.Customs Waterguard, H.M.Immigration Officer and the Pilots.

Whenever area are removed from the list those concerned are notified of the deletions which should be made. In the event of further infected areas being added, a completely new list of infected areas is supplied.

Radio Messages

The Port is not a radio transmitting port. Radio telegrams from Masters of vessels are received principally from the Land's End Radio Station, via the General Post Office at Falmouth.

Notification otherwise than by radio

Information about ships which require the attention of the Port Medical Officer is telephoned by H.M.Customs Waterguard Officers to the Port Medical Officer.

Mooring Stations

A mooring station has been established in the Dock area alongside No. 7 Wharf and outside the Dock area alongside a buoy at St.Just Pool.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

All cases of infectious diseases, other than smallpox, can be admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts

Notices are sent to Medical Officers of the Districts concerned when contacts leave the Port. Prepaid Reply Cards are issued in certain cases on which contacts

are required to notify any further changes of address. Contacts remaining within the Port District are under the supervision of the Port Medical Officer during the period of surveillance.

Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles

All ships' quarters which have been occupied by cases or suspected cases of infectious disease are disinfected by the Port Health Inspector.

The disinfection of persons, clothing and other articles is carried out at the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

VII. SMALLPOX

All cases or suspected cases of smallpox may be sent to Lee Mill Hospital, Near Ivybridge, Devon.

Ambulances for the transport of such cases would be supplied by the Cornwall County Council who are also responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crew.

The smallpox consultants available are -

Dr. D. F. Johnstone,
The Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.
(Tel. Plymouth 4311 and 61437).

Dr. W. A. Lister,
7, The Crescent, Plymouth.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis would be sent to The Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. (Tel. Colindale 7041).

VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

Cases of Venereal Disease are treated at the Falmouth and District Hospital by Dr. Hewitt, the County Venerealogist. Clinics are held for in-patients and ambulants as follows -

Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If, as is rarely necessary, any case needs hospitalisation, the patient is admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year	Number of ships concerned
		Passengers Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Early Para-Typhoid B.	- 1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	- -	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	- -	-

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No case of Malaria has been observed during the past year.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague has arrived during the past year.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Procedure for inspection of ships for rats

All ships arriving from foreign ports are inspected by the Port Health Inspector and a thorough search is made for indications of rodent infestation. Where indications of rodent infestation are found traps are set and in cases where the deratting certificate has expired and indications of rodent infestation are found, the vessel is ordered to be fumigated.

Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rodents

Arrangements have been made for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents at the Royal Infirmary, Pathological Department, Truro.

No rodents have been sent for examination during the year.

Arrangements for deratting ships and methods used

Deratting of ships is carried out entirely by fumigation by hydrogen cyanide. The work is carried out by a commercial contractor, Fumigation Services Ltd. of London.

Progress in the rat proofing of ships

Most new vessels are found to be largely rat proof. Advice is given from time to time when rat proofing is not satisfactory. Steady progress continues to be made in the rat proofing of ships, and this is evidenced by the gradual reduction year by year in the number of rodents destroyed.

TABLE E
RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category	Number
Black Rats	-
Brown Rats	6
Sent for examination	-
Infected with plague	-

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED
DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	-	-	-	3	75	78

XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G
Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Inspections	960	Nil	-
Re-Visits	459	Nil	-
	1,419	Nil	

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH)
REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

Oyster beds have been laid down in the Helford River, the Penryn River, the Truro River and the Percuil River. There is no risk of pollution in the Helford River but there is a definite risk of pollution by sewage and surface drainage in the Penryn and Truro Rivers. Oysters taken from these two rivers are laid down elsewhere for cleansing purposes. There is some risk of sewage and surface water pollution in the Percuil River, but every precaution is taken to obviate the risk.

The majority of oysters taken from the Port are marketed in London.

No samples have been examined during the year.

XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment

Dr. Albert Cecil Dick, Port Medical Officer of Health.

Other Staff

None.

Organisation of Works and Nature and Amount of Alien Traffic

Falmouth is an approved Port under the Aliens Order for the landing of aliens but there is little or no aliens traffic in the Port. In the event, however, of aliens arriving arrangements would be made for medical inspection to be carried out on board. It has not been thought necessary to make any special arrangements for providing accommodation for medical inspection and examination ashore.

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

No case of death on board ship from infectious disease has occurred for many years, but in the event of such death the Authority would endeavour to secure cremation. The nearest Crematorium is at Truro.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1960.

SHIP INSPECTION

Vessels entering the port are visited as soon as possible after docking and enquiries made concerning the health of the crew, the occurrences of any sickness during the voyage, the source of the water supply, the condition of tanks and bilges and the presence of animals or parrots on board. The deratting or deratting exemption certificate is inspected and if found to be in order the inspector, accompanied by a ship's officer, proceeds to the examination of the sanitary condition of the vessel, pointing out any defects or nuisances and suggesting the remedy to be adopted. The majority of the shipping companies are always ready and willing to remedy any nuisance or defects which have been brought to their notice by the Inspector. Serious defects to structure and defects of original construction are reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyor.

During the year 960 vessels were inspected. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels. Verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which all the nuisances and defects were remedied before the vessels left port again. 459 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with nuisance and defects, rat destruction etc.

Nuisances and Defects

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health accounted for 61 and structural defects caused through wear and tear 289 of the total found.

Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health

Dirty and verminous crews' quarters, foul water closets, choked scuppers, dirty food lockers, and accumulations of refuse accounted for the majority of the nuisances under this heading, and most of these conditions could have been avoided by the exercise of more care and stricter supervision of the crews.

A steadily increasing number of vessels are carrying and using insecticides during their voyage and this practice has undoubtedly been the prime factor in a great reduction in the number of verminous vessels and rooms found during the past year.

When vessels were heavily infected with vermin, disinfestation was carried out by means of pressure spraying with insecticides, or fumigation with hydrogen cyanide. Slight infestations were dealt with by dismantling bunks and fittings, by hand spraying with a liquid insecticide into all crevices.

Structural Defects caused through wear and tear

Defective port frames, linings and broken glasses, defective heating apparatus, bunks, water closets, lockers and leaky decks were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention. Other defects dealt with were defective water heaters, showers, entrance doors, water service pipes, floors, unsheathed ventilators and leaky skylights.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Vessels Regulations, 1958

These Regulations came into operation on 1st June, 1958, and specify the permitted times for smoke emission from the various types of vessels.

The attention of the Masters and Engineers of vessels arriving at the Port is directed to the requirements of the regulations.

58 Observations were made during the year of the smoke emission from 28 British and 30 foreign owned vessels. In each case the emission was within the prescribed limits.

FOOD INSPECTION

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1945

No imported foodstuffs are discharged within the Port Health District. The only food coming under the Authority's notice is food intended for ships' provisions temporarily landed into cold storage while the vessel is undergoing repairs.

The Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 - 1958

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957

No action was found necessary.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK JACKETT

Port Health Inspector.

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